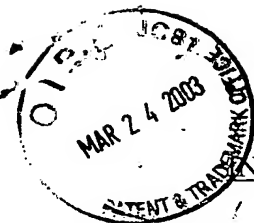


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re of Application of: Jeremy Levin, et al.  
Application No.: 10/055,502      Group No.: 1625  
Filed: November 13, 2001      Examiner: D. Margaret Seaman  
For: ALKYNYL CONTAINING HYDROXAMIC ACID COMPOUNDS  
AS MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASE AND TACE INHIBITORS  
Confirmation No.: 8971  
Customer Number: 25291

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2002. Submitted herewith is a petition for extension of time. Please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

The present invention relates to acetylenic hydroxamic acids which act as inhibitors of TNF- $\alpha$  converting enzyme (TACE). The compounds of the present invention are useful in disease conditions mediated by TNF- $\alpha$ , such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and ulcerative colitis.

The Examiner has required a restriction under 35 USC 121 to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1, 2, and 5-7, drawn to compounds, compositions and methods of treatment wherein Y is phenyl;

Group II: Claims 1, 2, and 5-7, drawn to compounds, compositions and methods of treatment wherein Y is heteroaryl; and

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR §1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date written below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EU 238171209 US addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

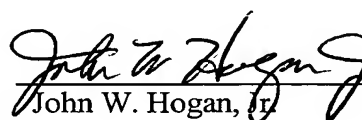
March 24, 2003  
Date

John W. Hogan, Jr.

Group III: Claims 1, 2, and 5-7, drawn to compounds, compositions and methods of treatment wherein Y is aryl other than phenyl.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.143 the applicants provisionally elect Group II. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter in the event the restriction is warranted.

Favorable treatment of the application is earnestly solicited.

  
John W. Hogan, Jr.

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